

Mayor's Report – January 2010
By Mayor Robert Weger

Being in the middle of some tough economic times will certainly present some challenges as I look forward to the year 2010 for the City of Willoughby Hills. We continue to work with our Finance Department to streamline various aspects of city business to operate safely, yet fiscally responsibly.

The union contracts for our Police, Fire, Dispatch and Service workers have been negotiated and we have agreed to conditions which should protect from future layoffs. Having already made the work atmosphere more comfortable for our dispatchers, we will continue to renovate the Police Department for our officers.

The Finance Department has implemented a system for the use of credit cards for payment, which should simplify payments for police citations, recreation events and Community Center rentals.

The Lithuanian Center will be breaking ground on Maple Grove to construct "Mary Rose Estates," a multi-dwelling center for senior citizens. The City will be performing Maple Grove slope repair in the Maple Grove/Parsons area. Implementation of sanitary sewers for our "Area C" residents will begin in the coming year. Route 91 light synchronization, which has been a nightmare for many motorists, will now be instituted and provide smoother travel for drivers in and out of our city.

It is my hope that a city-wide trash and recycle program will serve to provide lower prices for our residents and utilize one vendor to save the "wear and tear" of our streets.

I anticipate working with our Recreation Commission to develop soccer fields at the Garfield School property and add bocci courts at Roemisch Field. These are two sources of recreation that I would like to see our residents enjoy.

I look back at 2009 and am happy with some of our accomplishments:

- Standing united as a city in March's Special Election to protect our one-acre zoning ordinance
- Implementation of our new Dispatch Center and IT Room
- Campbell Park Playground renovation
- Establishment of Willoughby Hills Art Gallery
- Renewal of our Road Levy and re-election of 4 Council members
- Over 50 WHISPER deeds accomplished for our seniors

- Welcoming new businesses including National College, Scoopy Doos, and X-Press Pac, as well as Betty's Boutique to W.H. Friends Church

In closing then, I look forward to 2010 with great anticipation to continue good work as your Mayor. All of these improvements will make Willoughby Hills a nice place to live; however, the most important thing I can do for our community is to continue my "Residents First" plan where the residents are always welcome to let me know their ideas and concerns. I look forward to meeting many more residents in the coming year as I start my third year as Mayor of the City of Willoughby Hills.